

Message Text

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73

ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-04 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 OIC-02 L-01

AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06 NEA-06 /052 W

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R 292114Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5527

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FROM USREP ICAO

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ICAO

SUBJ: ICAO - SELECTION OF DIRECTOR AIR TRANSPORT BUREAU

1. INFORMAL INDICATIONS ARE THAT PIRSON, FORMER BELGIAN COUNCIL REP (BELGIUM VOTED OFF AT RECENT ASSEMBLY) IS NUMBER ONE CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR ATB. ALTHOUGH POST IS LESS ATTRACTIVE THAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS STATURE HE NOW HAS, HIS PERSONAL CHOICE MAY BE TO REMAIN IN MONTREAL WHERE HE HAS RESIDED FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS. MONTREAL ALSO PREFERRED BY NEW WIFE.

2. PIRSON IS ACTIVE, HARD WORKING BUT SOMEWHAT ERRATIC. HIS TREMENDOUS ENERGIES AND INTERESTS OVERSHADOW PRESENT SCOPE OF ATB AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY RESULT IN TREMENDOUS INCREASE IN ACTIVITY AND INVOLVEMENT BY THAT BUREAU. THIS MAY OR MAY NOT BE AN ADVANTAGE IN A PERIOD WHEN ICAO IS BEING PUSHED TOWARD REACTIVATION IN THE ECONOMIC AREAS. COINCIDENTALLY, PIRSON IS NOW SOMEWHAT BITTER ABOUT LOSING COUNCIL SEAT AND IS ANGRY TOWARD THE EUROPEANS WHO HE CLAIMS DID NOT VOTE THEIR INSTRUCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF OTHER EUROPEAN CANDIDATES, AND FOR OTHER REASONS HE IS SOMETHING SLIGHTLY LESS THAN PRO-US. HIS BITTERNESS TOWARDS NETHERLANDS WILL BE AGGRAVATED IF THEY ARE VOTED ON THE COMMISSION IN DECEMBER, WHICH IS FULLY EXPECTED. PIRSON ALWAYS

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TRIED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH AFRICANS ESPECIALLY FRENCH-SPEAKING

WHICH HE NOW CREDITS WITH HAVING "ALMOST" ELECTED HIM ON THIRD BALLOT.

3. IN SUMMARY, IF PIRSON IS SELECTED TO HEAD ATB, US AND OTHERS WILL HAVE TO GEAR UP FOR FULL, EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT ON DAY-BY-DAY BASIS IN ECONOMIC AREA.
HARPER

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